

Soviet official sentenced to death

MOSCOW (R) — Another Uzbek official has been sentenced to death for large-scale bribe-taking as part of a Soviet campaign to clean up the corruption-plagued central Asian Republic of Uzbekistan, Trud reported Saturday. The trade union newspaper named the official only as Rakimov, a former collective farm chairman who prospered under Uzbek leader Sharaf Rashidov, who died in office in 1983 after ruling the republic for 24 years. A close associate of former Soviet leader Leonid Brezhnev, Rashidov was posthumously disgraced and stripped of his honours in a huge anti-corruption campaign started in 1984. Several Uzbek officials have since been executed after being found guilty of taking bribes worth millions of roubles. Trud said Rakimov had been involved in corruption for years. "In the course of the investigation it emerged that through these means, hundreds of thousands of roubles had amassed in his pockets," it said. In March, three former senior Uzbek officials committed suicide after being arrested for bribe-taking. They included a former Uzbek interior minister, Kudrat Ergashev, his deputy and a regional party chief.

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AROUND THE WORLD...

Vassiliou agrees to meet Denktash

NICOSIA (R) — Cyprus President George Vassiliou agreed Saturday to meet Turkish-Cypriot leader Rauf Denktash for talks on reuniting the divided island. Denktash, president of the breakaway Turkish republic of north Cyprus, said earlier this month he was ready to talk to Vassiliou. U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar had invited them to a meeting without preconditions. Vassiliou told reporters after a meeting of the National Council which groups all party leaders that, if Denktash agreed, they could meet in Geneva in early July.

Khomeini 'receives visitors'

NICOSIA (R) — Iran's spiritual leader, Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, received visitors Saturday who prayed for him to live until judgement day, Tehran Radio reported. The report was the first official announcement of Khomeini's activities since U.S. and British television networks quoted reports as saying the 85-year-old leader had died or was dying. The radio said Revolutionary Guards, volunteer soldiers and fund-raisers visited Khomeini at Jamshir mosque in northern Tehran.

Shultz to visit Central America

WASHINGTON (R) — U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz will visit Central America from June 29 to July 1 due to President Reagan's growing concern over the lack of progress towards democracy in Nicaragua, a State Department statement said. It said Reagan had asked Shultz to meet the leaders of El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Costa Rica to discuss the situation in Nicaragua, where peace talks with contra rebels broke down recently.

Manigat fires armed forces chief

PORT-AU-PRINCE (R) — Haiti's president, Leslie Manigat, Friday dismissed armed forces chief General Henri Namphy and two other generals. The dismissals came after a confrontation over Namphy's attempt to transfer a colonel loyal to the president. Namphy, who headed an interim military government for two years after dictator Jean-Claude Duvalier fled in January 1986, has retired, according to a presidential communiqué issued late Friday. Namphy's dismissal appeared to reflect a victory in Manigat's growing conflict with the armed forces since taking office Feb. 7.

Manila assails Shultz's remarks

MANILA (AP) — Senators Saturday assailed U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz for recently saying the United States would "part company" with allies who prohibit nuclear-armed vessels in their waters. Shultz made the statement Thursday during testimony to the U.S. Senate Foreign Operations Subcommittee. He also said the United States would pull out its facilities if Manila demands higher compensation. Sen. Jovito Salonga, president of the Philippine Senate, told a news conference the government rejects the notion of friendship "based on a condition of having nuclear weapons" in the Philippines. "What kind of relationship is this if they have to put dynamite and bombs in our (territory) for us to be friends?" he asked.

15 Syrian officials sacked

DAMASCUS (R) — Fifteen Syrian officials have been sacked from government departments or state institutions for mismanagement or dishonesty, the Syrian news agency (SANA) said Saturday. Diplomats said the dismissals were part of a government campaign against corruption and mismanagement in the public service.

Cyprus imposes new visa rules

NICOSIA (R) — Cyprus has tightened controls on visitors from the Middle East and elsewhere after a car bombing which killed three people last month. People from the Middle East, Asia and Africa will in future need visas before travelling to the holiday island, officials said Saturday. They said this was one a series of measures to strengthen security after a botched attempt to bomb the Israeli embassy May 11. Three people died and 19 were injured when the car exploded in a central Nicosia street.

Three killed in Pakistan riots

KARACHI (R) — Three people were killed and 40 wounded in riots Saturday in the southern Pakistani city of Hyderabad, where police with shoot-on-sight orders later imposed a curfew, residents said. The curfew was clamped at six p.m. (1300 GMT) after hundreds of people broke into the city mayor's office with arms, hatchets and wooden staves, the residents said. Police said a bomb was also lobbed at the home of the mayor, Aftab Ahmad Sheikh. Witnesses said the violence broke out between two ethnic groups who have clashed several times in the past in Pakistan's second biggest city.

U.S. drops minor Panama sanction

WASHINGTON (R) — The U.S. government is dropping a sanction against Panama that required U.S. firms to withhold social security payments for their Panamanian staff from Panama's government, the state department said Friday. Spokesman Charles Redman described the measure as purely humanitarian and said the United States had not softened its stance against Panamanian strongman Manuel Antonio Noriega and his handpicked president, Manuel Solis Palma.

Sierra Leone leader holds talks in Kuwait

KUWAIT (R) — Sierra Leone's President Joseph Momoh held talks Saturday with the emir of Kuwait, Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah, the Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) reported. Diplomatic sources said Momoh, who arrived Friday at the start of Gulf tour, was seeking finance for road and hospital projects in his country.

Kabul says Stinger seized

ISLAMABAD (AP) — Afghan government troops ceased a U.S.-made Stinger anti-aircraft missile along with an assortment of other weapons from Mujahideen fighters in the western province of Herat, Radio Kabul reported Saturday. The radio credited Afghan border guards with the seizure, indicating it occurred near Afghanistan's border with Iran. Two guerrillas were arrested and one killed. Also Saturday, Afghan President Najibullah officially ushered in Prime Minister Mohammad Hasan Sharq and his cabinet.

Moscow police detain 2 demonstrators

MOSCOW (R) — Police detained at least two people at a demonstration for democracy in Moscow Saturday, provoking a large crowd of onlookers to react with shouts of "fascists," eyewitnesses said. The two people, whose identity was not immediately known, were held as police tried to disperse about 50 members of various unofficial debating clubs, who carried banners calling for a democratic electoral system and "socialist pluralism," the eyewitnesses said.

Ozal escapes attempt on life

ANKARA (Agencies) — Prime Minister Turgut Ozal, whose reform policies have changed the face of Turkey, was slightly wounded in an assassination attempt Saturday while addressing 5,000 supporters and foreign diplomats.

Official said the detained man packed Ankara Hall and people dived for cover as a gunman fired at least two shots at Ozal. One bullet hit his right hand and another narrowly missed his head.

The youthful-looking man dressed in "T" shirt and jeans opened fire with a handgun at Ozal from a distance of 10 metres and then blazed away blindly before he was shot in the arm by a policeman and seized, officials said.

Ankara Governor Saffet Arkan Beduk told reporters that 20 people were hurt, 15 of them with gunshot wounds. Labour Minister Ilmen Aykut, the only woman in Ozal's cabinet, was among those slightly injured in the panic.

Ozal was later reported in excellent condition and aides said he had watched a television film of the attack.

President Kenan Evren, who as a general led a 1980 army coup to end political mayhem in which more than 5,000 people were killed, was quick to condemn the attack, as were military leaders and Ozal's parliamentary opponents.

It was not immediately clear if the gunfire that hit some of the wounded came from police or the gunman.

A police official at the scene, who requested anonymity, said

the first bullet fired by the gunman hit the microphone in front of Ozal and the second one hit his right thumb.

Ozal took cover immediately behind the lectern when he heard the shots, Anatolia said. Delegates and others inside the convention hall also took cover, it said.

"I saw the gunman take careful aim at the premier and fire at him twice," Eyyup Asik, a deputy chairman of the party, told the agency.

Ozal came to power in a general election in 1983 after three years of military rule. He won a second five-year term with an overwhelming mandate in elections last November.

His free-market economic policies and outward-looking foreign policy, including an application made 14 months ago for full membership of the European Economic Community (EEC), have radically changed the image of a once-introverted Turkey.

(Continued on page 5)

Saudi leader renews stiff warning to Iran

RIYADH (AP) — Crown Prince Abdullah Ibn Abdul Aziz has issued a stern warning to Iran, saying in an interview published Saturday that Saudi Arabia would not permit "any voice to rise higher than that of prayers" at the upcoming pilgrimage in Mecca and Medina.

"I hope that no party, group or individual will try to test our determination to crush any riots or disturbances that mar the security of the pilgrims," said the prince in an interview published in the Saudi newspaper Al Sharq Al Awsat.

"There will be no hooligan demonstrations and no provocative slogans," said the prince, who is the commander of the country's paramilitary National Guard.

"We shall not permit, at all costs, that any voice rise higher than that of the prayers of a worshiper, the hymn of the devout and adoration of the creator," he added.

Abdullah was interviewed in London at the conclusion of a state visit to Britain which he said dealt with terrorism as well as the proposed international peace conference on the Middle East and means of ending the Iran-Iraq war.

(Continued on page 5)



Abdullah Ibn Abdul Aziz

Abdullah said that British officials affirmed that they "do not deal with terrorists," with reference to the pro-Iranian groups holding three British hostages in Lebanon, and that the latest British contacts with Tehran were only designed to solve outstanding embassy problems (see page 5).

Iran was accused of terrorism and subversion by Riyadh last April 26 when the kingdom ruptured diplomatic ties with the neighbour. Riyadh cited among other issues the riots by Iranian pilgrims at last year's annual pilgrimage at the site of the issue.

On Friday the Azerbaijan Supreme Soviet endorsed a recommendation by its executive body to reject a request from Nagorno-Karabakh for the region to be

transferred to Armenia. An Azerbaijani foreign ministry spokesman told Reuters:

"The Supreme Soviet considered that the departure of Nagorno-Karabakh... contradicted the constitution of the Soviet Union as well as the traditional ties of friendship between the Armenian and Azerbaijani peoples."

The move followed a vote by the corresponding body in Armenia Wednesday to annex Nagorno-Karabakh. It has been ruled by Azerbaijan since 1923, although 75 per cent of its population are Armenian.

Both republics cite the Soviet constitution to back their positions. Azerbaijan quotes Article 78, which says borders may be redrawn only with the consent of all peoples concerned.

But another clause, Article 70, expresses the right of all peoples to self-determination. This was used by the Armenian parliament to justify the right of Nagorno-Karabakh to decide for itself to which republic it should belong.

The votes now leave the Kremlin with no option but to determine which interpretation should be applied. In March, Soviet officials cited Article 78, when Moscow ruled against any immediate change in the status of the region.

But his finance minister, Treasury Secretary James Baker, has acknowledged that Reagan faces intense opposition at the summit over its proposal to end farm subsidies worldwide by the year 2000.

This is Reagan's eighth and last economic summit and part of a sentimental journey en route to retirement — a bit anticlimactic following his dramatic Kremlin meeting with Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev three weeks ago.

Japanese Prime Minister



Turgut Ozal

Regent sends cable to Ozal

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Saturday sent a cable to Turkish Prime Minister Turgut Ozal congratulating him on escape from an assassination attack on his life.

The Regent wished Ozal continued health and happiness and the Turkish people further progress and prosperity. Prince Minister Zaid Rifai also sent Ozal a similar cable.

The underground leadership of the uprising called in its last leaflets for "a day of public confrontation" to show support for the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) and Palestinian self-determination.

Students in the West Bank city of Ramallah and nearby Al Bireh camp marched from their schools to a mosque in central Ramallah to erect roadblocks and burn tyres after school.

The Israeli occupation authorities opened schools Saturday after closing them for two days because of protests.

The schools were originally closed in February because of the uprising but gradually reopened several weeks ago.

Palestinians said there were also demonstrations in Amari, Jalazon and Qadouri camps.

Palestinians in the Gaza Strip held a general strike Saturday, paralysing commerce and transportation. Protesters also burned tyres in the streets.

In the Khan Younis refugee camp, soldiers opened fire on protesters who threw firebombs at them. An Arab reporter said Khaled Al Haj Yousef, 17, was shot in the chest and died of his wounds. Another boy, aged 14, was shot in the knee.

(Continued on page 5)

Moscow in dilemma over ethnic dispute

MOSCOW (Agencies) — A major clash between two Soviet republics appears to be coming to a head.

With the parliaments of Armenia and Azerbaijan taking opposing stands over the disputed region of Nagorno-Karabakh, people of the two transcaucasian republics await a final decision from Moscow on the issue.

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transferred to Armenia.

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Egypt trusts Taba arbitration

CAIRO (AP) — Foreign Minister Esamat Abdul Meguid said Saturday that he trusts the judgement of an international arbitration panel which is to decide later this summer whether the disputed area of Taba belongs to Egypt or Israel. Abdul Meguid's comments were apparently in response to recent Israeli media reports that said Egypt had agreed to discuss a compromise with Israel about Taba, despite the belief that the arbitrators will vote in Cairo government's favour, so as not to damage ties with Israel. The Egyptian foreign minister spoke to reporters at Cairo international airport, following his arrival from the United States where he attended a United Nations session on disarmament. "Egypt's position regarding Taba is known. We agreed to resolve the issue through arbitration and the arbitrators have already finished hearing the cases presented by both sides and they are now deliberating," he said. Commenting on Israeli actions against the Palestinian uprising, Abdul Meguid said: "We strongly condemn these actions which we consider a violation of all international rules and humanitarian laws. It would be better if Israel accepts to move towards peace so that the Palestinian people get their legal rights."

Students stage protests after school

Another Palestinian martyred in uprising

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies)

Israeli troops shot dead a Palestinian and wounded eight others in the Gaza Strip Saturday during widespread protests and a general strike in the occupied territories.

Palestinian students, who returned to school in the occupied West Bank after a two-day closure, set stones and large garbage wagons to block Saleda Street, the main shopping thoroughfare in the city.

A Palestinian man in the Khan Younis refugee camp died after troops opened fire on stone-throwing protesters, residents said. Eight others were wounded from live ammunition, rubber bullets and beatings, they added.

The death brought a toll in the six-month uprising against Israeli occupation to at least 219 Palestinians.

In Jerusalem, several months of calm were shattered when Palestinian students used stones and large garbage wagons to block Saleda Street, the main shopping thoroughfare in the city.

Palestinian students held a general strike Saturday, paralysing commerce and transportation. Protesters also burned tyres in the streets.

In the Khan Younis refugee camp, soldiers opened fire on protesters who threw firebombs at them. An Arab reporter said Khaled Al Haj Yousef, 17, was shot in the chest and died of his wounds. Another boy, aged 14, was shot in the knee.

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Amman Rotary Club: 36 years of community service

Sa'ad G. Hattar reports on the activities of the Amman Rotary Club

AMMAN — Since its founding 36 years ago, the Amman Rotary Club (ARC) has contributed to setting up more than 20 community service projects at an average cost of JD 8,000 a year.

Established in the early fifties,

the club, a local branch of the Rotary International, has been instrumental in boosting the country's cultural and educational standards as well as fostering social interaction through a series of well organised programmes.

The ARC stands out among local assemblies as one of the most active clubs, with far-reaching multi-purpose programmes for the benefit of both its members and the community at large.

In a recent interview with the Jordan Times, Ra'uf Abu Jaber, a veteran Rotarian, made a chronological review of the development of the ARC and the projects to which it contributed in the country.

This year's ARC project is targeted towards setting up an integral social centre in Al Quweisimah housing complex, one of the urban development projects in the Kingdom.

The centre, to be set up in cooperation with the Urban Development Department (UDD), is estimated to cost between JD 40,000 and JD 42,000. Due to start in July of this year, construction of the centre is expected to last for 18 months. The centre would consist of an auditorium, a sewing teaching centre, a kindergarten, a children's playground and a dental clinic for children.

For its part, the UDD has allotted a 12-dunum piece of land towards the project while the ARC plans to contribute as much as JD 12,000 in members' donations. The Queen Alia Social Welfare Fund has undertaken to meet the remaining JD 30,000 for the centre.

Rotarians in Jordan are currently engaged in a world-wide effort targeted towards wiping out all diseases which strike children, most notably polio.

The "Polio Plus" project, as it is labelled, is yet another indicator of Rotary International's contribution towards improving the living standards of children in the world.

The ARC has already met 50 per cent of its share of \$26,000 towards the \$120 million Polio Plus project. Jordan is one of dozens of beneficiaries throughout the world. The project will provide for supplying ambulances, technicians, and vaccinations and other health-related apparatus.

Hajj began earlier this year, the Polio Plus project has already pumped \$26 million into Sudan, \$28 million into Turkey, and \$22 million into India.

Although South Yemen does not have a local Rotary Club, it is to benefit from the Polio Plus project, and Jordan-based Rotarians were named as sponsors for that effort.

Over the years in Jordan, one project stands out as the most costly and well planned. It was a health service programme to combat the spread of tuberculosis in the Kingdom in 1972. Approximately \$100,000 in the form of pharmaceutical products and medical equipment were invested



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan at the opening ceremony of the Rotary Club's Rajef

in the project, which was carried out in cooperation with the Ministry of Health.

At that particular project, International Rotarian Clubs offered contributions in cooperation with Jordan-based Rotarians which helped realise optimum benefits.

In the aftermath of the 1967 Arab-Israeli war, the club presented the Jordan Red Crescent (JRC) with a fully-equipped vehicle for field medical operations.

The club had ordered the vehicle before the war erupted and the delivery was made just in time to cater for war victims.

Those were just few of many community service projects designed to improve the living conditions of the country's less privileged citizens.

Many people, however, have the impression that accessibility to the Amman Rotary Club is universally-adhered to."

Abu Jaber went on to say that the club's charter states that "only the pioneer in each trade" is eligible for membership. Abu Jaber also defends the club against charges of elitism. "The Rotary's objective lies in encouraging and fostering the advancement of international understanding, goodwill, and peace through a world fellowship of business and professional men united in the ideal of service. It is a worldwide network of cooperation and understanding for a better world," the club's charter states.

Established in 1956, the 80-member Amman Rotary Club became a de jure member of a worldwide network of 20,000 clubs with more than 900,000 Rotarians in 157 countries and geographical regions.

Yet, the club bears local characteristics and a Jordanian hallmark. Furthermore, according to Abu Jaber, Jordanian Rotarians

social centre on July 15, 1979. Mr. Rauf Abu Jaber is on the Crown Prince's right (file photo)

are always ready for voluntary work and financial contributions for the underprivileged. Those activities run parallel to the intellectual programmes directed to the Kingdom's intelligentsia. Those programmes include lectures by key intellectuals and public figures.

In the same vein, the Rotarians meet every Tuesday to discuss topical issues, and often, they invite a renowned think-tank member or a pioneer in his/her field to address the assembly.

Last month, the ARC honoured a veteran Rotarian for his relentless endeavours towards upgrading the Jordanian economy at the turn of the century.

Haj Mohammad Ali Budeir, the first Jordanian to set up a public share holding company in the 1920's, was given a warm reception and a plaque acknowledging his services to the country.

Such an assembly is commonplace. Because Rotary International charters restrict membership to no more than 80 members, two other clubs came to being in Amman to meet the growing demand for such institutions.

The Philadelphia Club and the Amman Petra Club grouping 65 and 52 members respectively, have been registered since 1956. The Inner Wheel, an umbrella assembly for the wives of Rotarians, is also active in various domains of community service. It groups 45 women at the ARC and 42 at the Philadelphia Club.

The foremost objective of the Rotary Club remains to broaden the scope of inter-communal cooperation with a view to offer optimum services to society. And so the Rotarians join hands with the "inner wheelers" for a better society and a prospering country.

According to Dr. Toukan, the disease gets transmitted from child to child in the same family.

"Here young children (between 1 and 5-years-old) from poor socio-economic classes are most prone to catch the virus from each other. This is forced upon them because of their socio-economic environment where poor hygienic conditions exist and they share the same washing materials, and where many of them sleep in one small room, for example," Toukan said.

He adds that the younger the child is when infected with HBV the more likely he or she will

be a carrier for life; whereas when an adult is infected, he or she will become ill but will not continue to carry the virus.

Another common way that the virus is passed is through vertical transmission. This occurs when an infected mother passes the virus on to her baby during the time of birth, Toukan explained.

"But we believe this is not as common here as it is in Southeast Asia," he added.

No. 1 suspect

Toukan said that a community study was conducted by the University of Jordan's hospital on the hepatitis B problem in the rural areas in the Kingdom with the aim of seeing the virus' behaviour within the family and to formulate vaccination strategies in the future.

It was found that poverty was the main contributor to HBV, and that transmission within the family was the most common.

"As the country improves its standard of living and poverty decreases then we should find some improvement with this problem," Toukan commented.

If Hepatitis B is such a serious problem then why are people not informed? Toukan explains that the seriousness of the disease and its behaviour were not appreciated until 5 to 10 years ago. In Jordan it was only discovered 1 to 3 years ago.

"We attempted to undertake campaigns to create awareness among the people. In response to the figures we found from the study, we formed the Friends of Liver Disease Patients Society in 1984. The society comprises interested physicians who want to spread awareness and conduct further studies," Toukan said.

He added that the society has undertaken campaigns with the Ministry of Education to work in schools outside Amman — in Karak, Ma'an, Tafila, and so on — last year. This year, he said, awareness campaigns are being made at UNRWA schools at refugee camps.

"Specialised physicians give lectures to the students and teachers in UNRWA schools, and to mothers and so on, and the awareness campaign on HBV will continue," Toukan asserted.

He explained, however, that it is very difficult to inform people and make them aware of the dangers of HBV because of cul-

tural reasons. "We can't tell chil-

Hepatitis B — highly risky, easily avoidable

By Sana Atiyeh
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Hepatitis B (HBV), a viral disease which attacks the liver possibly leading to cancer of the liver and eventual death, kills an estimated 2 million people worldwide per year. Five per cent of the world's population are carriers. More than 1,000 million people have been infected by the virus, more than 200 million are chronic carriers, and more than 50 million new infections occur annually.

One in five carriers will die prematurely as a result of liver cancer.

In Jordan, approximately 10 per cent of the population are carriers, according to World Health Organisation (WHO) figures.

Because Jordan lies in the high endemicity carrier rates — between 5 and 15 per cent — and because of consequences resulting in a high mortality rate, HBV can be considered a serious problem in the country, according to a specialist in liver disease at the University of Jordan.

Dr. Al'A Toukan, the specialist, recently returned from a WHO conference on HBV in Saudi Arabia. He said that it was found that the Middle East was one of the worst areas facing HBV. It stood third after Africa and parts of Southeast Asia.

He said that the Middle East is one of the worst areas facing HBV. It stood third after Africa and parts of Southeast Asia. According to figures, as much as 14 per cent of the population in some parts of the Middle East are suspected carriers. With such a high percentage of carriers, it is estimated that 70 to 95 per cent of the population in the area are exposed to the virus.

Blood test

In an interview with the Jordan Times, Toukan said that the problem is that these carriers have no way of knowing they carry the virus unless a blood test is taken.

Symptoms of the disease begin to show after some 20 to 30 years, when the patient develops liver cirrhosis or cancer. The bigger problem is that carriers can in many ways pass on the virus to others without realising it.

According to Dr. Toukan, the disease gets transmitted from child to child in the same family. "Here young children (between 1 and 5-years-old) from poor socio-economic classes are most prone to catch the virus from each other. This is forced upon them because of their socio-economic environment where poor hygienic conditions exist and they share the same washing materials, and where many of them sleep in one small room, for example," Toukan said.

He adds that the younger the child is when infected with HBV the more likely he or she will be a carrier for life; whereas when an adult is infected, he or she will become ill but will not continue to carry the virus.

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"But we believe this is not as common here as it is in Southeast Asia," he added.

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NATIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

NUCLEAR FREE ZONES: Jordan will take part in an international meeting to discuss nuclear free zones which is due to open in Berlin Sunday. Rizk Al Batinneh, who is chairman of the Lower House of Parliament's Foreign Affairs Committee, will represent Jordan at the meeting and deliver a speech on the Middle East question and disarmament in the region. Batinneh will leave Amman Sunday for the three-day meeting.

AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS: Director General of the Jordan Agricultural Marketing and Processing Company Ghazi Abu Hamdan Saturday discussed with Lebanese Ambassador Pierre Ziyadeh exchange of agricultural products between Lebanon and Jordan.

UNIVERSITY GRADUATION: University of Jordan Saturday held a graduation ceremony for its 23rd batch of students. University President Dr. Abdul Salam Al Majali presented certificates to 45 students from the Faculty of Pharmacy, 62 students from the Faculty of Medicine, 111 students from the Faculty of Nursing, and 214 students from the Faculty of Engineering and Technology.

NEW SCHOOL FOR MAGHIR: The Ministry of Education has embarked on building a school in the town of Maghir in the Mafrag governorate. The school which will have 18 classrooms is expected to cost JD 217,000 and will be ready for occupancy during 1988.

ACCOUNTANCY TRAINING: Two training courses in accountancy for government departments opened at the Institute of Public Administration in Amman Saturday. Forty accountants employed by government ministries took part in the 10-day courses.

BANK LOAN: The Cities and Villages Development Bank has approved a JD 35,000 loan to the Um Al Dananir Village Council in the Balqa governorate. The loan will finance the construction of roads.

Celebrations to mark Great Arab Revolt

KARAK (Petra) — The Ministry of Youth will Sunday start week-long celebrations in different governorates to mark the anniversary of the Great Arab Revolt.

The celebrations entail youth and sports activities and seminars and lectures tackling the Great Arab Revolt, its impact on the lives of the Arab people and its effect on the process of movements in the Arab World.

The final event will be held at

Hmoud meets Washington State University chief

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Agriculture Marwan Hmoud met here Saturday with Washington State University President Samuel Smith to discuss cooperation in agriculture between the university and the Ministry of Agriculture.

The Jordan News Agency, Petra, said they discussed in particular an exchange of expertise and financing agricultural schemes in Jordan through the U.S. Agency

for International Aid (USAID). Smith later met with the Ministry Secretary General Salem Al Lawi to review progress in a national Jordanian project which is being financed by USAID.

The project supervised by the Ministry of Agriculture is designed to spread awareness among farmers on the employment of modern technology in farming.

Petra Festival ends

WADI MOUSA (Petra, J.T.) — An eight-day Petra Cultural Festival, organised by University of Jordan students, ended in the town of Wadi Mousa near the ancient Nabatean city Friday.

The festival included educational and entertaining activities which drew large numbers of Jordanians and foreign visitors. National songs and dances, traditional songs and cultural lectures and seminars were also part of the event — the first of its kind.

Olympic team gets anti-hepatitis vaccine

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Smith Kline and French Pharmaceutical Company operating through the Mumukhni Company in Amman has provided anti-hepatitis vaccine to the Jordanian National Olympic Team, which will take part in the Seoul Olympics in September 1988.

The vaccine was prepared in recent years as the most up to date treatment in the course of genetic engineering and fer-

mentation.

It replaces the outdated plasma derived vaccines which entailed the risk of blood contamination.

The new vaccine entered Jordan's markets in early 1987 after international preliminary tests proved successful.

The company's representative in Jordan, Safer Bushnaq, presented the vaccine to Dr. Muwafiq Al Fawwaz, president of the Jordanian National Olympic Committee.

4 unions reject law to unify allowances

AMMAN (J.T.) — Four Jordanian professional unions have rejected a government-proposed law to unify allowances granted to government employees including teachers, doctors, nurses, engineers and others.

They said they will soon submit a joint memorandum to a ministerial committee which is studying the application of the proposed law.

The rejection was voiced by the presidents of the engineering, medical, agricultural engineers and dentists associations at meetings held at the Professional Association Complex in Amman Friday.

The government has proposed that through this ministerial commission, equality is to be achieved among its employees who are receiving allowances at different levels in accordance with their university degrees and their technical capabilities.

The associations' presidents who spoke at the meetings outlined their efforts to dissuade the government from taking such a step. They were unanimous in rejecting the new law which, they said, was unjust and does not

serve the aims of the national development schemes.

"If the projected law is applied," they said "it will be instrumental in encouraging skilled technicians and professionals with high degrees to seek work abroad, thus draining the Kingdom of essential elements for development and progress, which is a national goal."

They said if the government aims to steer students towards new fields of study and training and stem unemployment, it ought to do that through a balanced educational system and through new projects that can offer jobs to unemployed people.

The presidents criticised the draft law because it gives certain privileges and higher allowances to members of the diplomatic corps, employees of the Royal Court, the judicial sector and the Central Bank, and said that justice can be done through improving the wages of all sectors of employees on equal footing in view of the high cost of living in the country, and not by cutting on the allowances of skilled manpower.

The associations' presidents who spoke at the meetings outlined their efforts to dissuade the government from taking such a step. They were unanimous in rejecting the new law which, they said, was unjust and does not

ACF higher council calls on Arabs to promote research

AMMAN (Petra) — The Higher Council of the Arab Chemists Federation (ACF) opened a meeting in Amman Saturday and heard a call on the Arab World to promote chemical research work and prepare the ground to absorb developments in the technology of chemistry in the coming century.

The call was made by Dr. Adnan Badran, secretary general of the Higher Council of Science and Technology (HCST), who reviewed the Kingdom's scientific research programmes.

"We now stand on the thresh-

old of a new and serious endeavour to give momentum to national research work in science and technology, which ought to be used for the service of Arab people," Badran said.

Jordan, he said, has realised "the great responsibility of the coming century and its challenges, and has embarked on a process of modernising the educational process from its roots, starting at the elementary level and moving upwards to the secondary level, and soon it will introduce modernisation and development in higher education."

Badran said that the HCST was established to promote research work and technology so that they can contribute to the country's national development.

Dr. Ahmad Haj Sa'id, the council's president, delivered a speech emphasising the role of chemists in building an advanced Arab industry and paid tribute to Jordan's efforts in planning and implementing educational policies at different levels and employing modern technology in various fields.

Dr. Mohammad Salameh, the federation's assistant secretary general, and Dr. Qasim Shamma, the president of the Jordanian Chemists Association (JCA), delivered speeches referring to the role of Arab chemists in the Arab World's development.

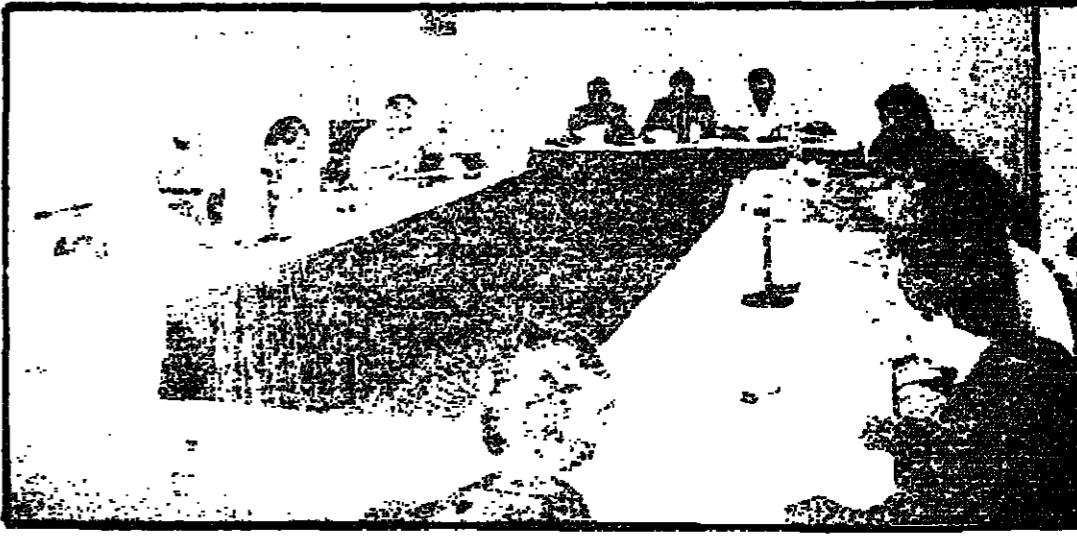
The two-day meeting will discuss the federation's financial and administrative report, the return of the Egyptian Chemists Association to the federation and the compilation of an Arab lexicon on chemistry.

The two-day meeting paves the ground for the federation's eighth meeting to open here Monday in which 125 chemists from the Arab countries and Jordan will take part.

At least 95 working papers are to be discussed by the delegations in the three-day meeting, covering petrochemicals, teaching of chemistry in the Arab World and other related topics.



The Higher Council of the Arab Chemists Federation opens a meeting in Amman Saturday (Petra photo)



Delegates from Jordan, Iraq, Syria, Saudi Arabia, Lebanon and Sudan attended the closing session of a five-day symposium on protection of agricultural workers against occupational injuries in Amman Saturday (Petra photo)

Meeting calls for fund to help Arab farmers

AMMAN (Petra, J.T.) — A five-day symposium on the question of providing protection to farmers and agricultural workers against occupational injuries, ended in Amman Saturday with a call by delegates on Arab countries to include agricultural workers in social security systems and offer them security and protection against risks and other dangers.

The symposium also appealed to the Arab governments to help establish a special fund that can offer proper compensation to farmers in drought years and urged the Arab Common Market to help find solutions for problems encountered in marketing agricultural produce.

The symposium which opened here last Tuesday was attended by delegations from Jordan, Iraq, Syria, Saudi Arabia, Lebanon and Sudan, and the deliberations covered means to help Arab farmers confront occupational risks and overcome disasters.

The delegates called on Arab

states to ratify and implement all agreements adopted by the International Labour Organisation (ILO) concerning securities for workers in agriculture, and to give protection to the rights of these workers while working in other Arab countries.

They also called on social security organisations in Arab countries to work out a detailed statistical study on agricultural workers and their distribution, so that it can benefit planners and policy-makers in working out social security measures for them.

The delegates called on employers to take the proper mea-

sures which can give ample protection to their workers, and to spread awareness on health protection among workers and farmers alike.

The five-day meeting was opened by Social Security Corporation (SSC) Director General Mahdi Farhan who called for social security systems to provide protection to agricultural workers.

The delegates reviewed working papers submitted by the participating countries and heard lectures on social security matters.

At the closing session the delegates voiced their appreciation to Jordan for hosting the symposium and the facilities given to the delegates to make their meeting a success.

Farhan, who addressed the closing session, said that Jordan will give its total support for pan-Arab action and will coordinate its work in social security matters with Arab organisations.

Tawjiji exams begin today

AMMAN (Petra, J.T.) — Students of the top secondary class (Tawjiji) and the third preparatory class at Jordanian schools in the East Bank will Sunday begin an examination session marking the end of the 1987-1988 scholastic year.

Officials at the Ministry of Education, which is organising the examinations, said that 51,783 students will take Tawjiji examination at 726 halls in various provinces.

The students are taking examinations in literary, scientific,

agricultural, industrial, nursing and hotel management streams, according to these officials.

They said at the same time there will be an additional 897 examination halls available for some 63,968 students who completed the third preparatory class to determine their acceptance in the first secondary school in the 1988-1989 scholastic year.

The ministry said earlier that it has set up a special committee to deal with the question of examinations for students in the occupied Arab territories, in view

of the uprising there and the closure of schools and universities for the past six months.

Ministry of Education's Secretary General Munther Al Masri was quoted by the local press as saying that the Tawjiji students will be either exempted from taking the end-of-year examinations or they will be allowed to complete their study of the subject matter in the summer.

The examinations which start Sunday will last until the end of this month.

Experts call for revision of educational system in Arab World

By Nermene Murad
Jordan times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Arab education experts here in Amman called for a comprehensive and detailed revision of the whole educational system in the Arab World with a view to substituting "the logic of the able for the logic of the helpless."

The regional meeting of experts for the "universalisation and renewal of primary education and the eradication of illiteracy in Arab states by the year 2000," opened here Saturday to consider ways and means to cope with illiteracy problems in the Arab World which stand at 56 per cent illiteracy rate among males and 70 per cent among females.

In the opening session of the meeting, Dr. Mohammad Kazem, United Nations Education, Science and Culture Organisation (UNESCO) regional coordinator in the Arab states and director of UNEDBAS (United Nations Regional Office for Education in the Arab States) told participants that challenges have accumulated and "what confronts us is the pressing need to view matters in their proper perspective."

Kazem added that the core of the issue is that the nowadays life,

is based on renewal and coping with change, "for progress by definition is a process of continuous renewal and renewal is inevitably a permanent element," Kazem said.

He pointed out that the world is currently suffering from population increase, "a phenomenon that has been termed population explosion," yet Kazem felt that this problem should be turned into a "renewable source of power and prestige, if only we benefit from the fruits of science, technology, knowledge explosion and instant communication and information."

Kazem stressed that "this is what it should be."

Explaining the goal set by the year 2000, Kazem said this vision, implies the challenge of "creating a pertinent and relevant education" that draws on the "cultural identity and leads" to cultural

development, which have the best chances of trustworthy orientation and optimal speed.

Kazem said that the talk in this meeting should focus on a "dynamic societal movement where formal education runs parallel with other forms of education," the starting point of which, Kazem added, should be basic education and the development of human potentials so as to be able to offer what is more than mere subsistence.

The role of UNESCO and international cooperation in this field, Kazem pointed out, is to help the Arab Nation release its energies to achieve the cultural equality with other cultures, "rather than ruminating talk about cultural invasion and cultural domination," Kazem said.

He added that UNESCO's role is also to enhance the efforts of the Arab Nation, both regionally, to be worthy of survival through the ability to contribute to the movement of the international community towards a better future for all.

Speaking on behalf of the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Education, Thouran Al Hindawi, secretary general of the ministry, Munther Al Masri briefly discussed Jordan's role, over the past three years, in giving due process and importance to education in the Kingdom under the leadership of His Majesty King Hussein and His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan.

He explained that Jordan has reviewed all facets of education in the country in which all cadres of the government and public institutions have participated.

Jordan, Masri said, has since held a national conference for development of education and has adopted a resolution in which the minimum mandatory period of education for all Jordanian citizens is ten years rather than nine.

Other resolutions adopted by the national education conference were ones which constituted a "well-studied development plan for the Hashemite Kingdom," Masri said.

He reiterated Jordan's support for the universalisation and re-

newal of primary education and the eradication of illiteracy in the Arab World, and the importance of setting the goal by the year 2000. Masri stressed the importance of the subjects to be discussed at the meeting and the challenge it presents to the education specialists.

Dr. Musarai Al Rawi, representative of Arab League Educational, Cultural and Scientific organisation (ALECSO), praised the high level of coordination and cooperation between ALECSO and UNESCO to avoid duplicity in efforts by ALECSO to improve the education level in the Arab World.

Rawi pointed out that the Arab World is unique in that it has a representative education body in the Arab League unlike other parts of the world who all belong to the UNESCO.

An educational specialist from ABEGS (Arab Bureau for Education in the Gulf States), Hikmat Al Bazaz, deputising for Dr. Ali Tuwairji, director of ABEGS, also reiterated the Gulf countries' support for efforts to eradicate illiteracy and universalise education in the Arab World.

Al Bazaz also expressed his organisation's hope that the meeting of education experts for the project in Latin America, the regional project in Asia.

The main document of the meeting will be on the regional project or universalisation of primary education and the eradication of illiteracy in Arab states by the year 2000, which will be discussed Sunday with special emphasis on justifications, objectives, management and coordination on the programme, financing of the programme and the target date for the project.

The final session of the meeting will be Tuesday during which there will be presentation of the final report and recommendations.

Amman, June 16, 1988

The Spanish Embassy in Amman has a vacancy with the following characteristics:

Vacancy: Administrative staff
Salary: Assigned by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Spain
Working Hours: Six days, working up to 37 hours weekly

REQUIREMENTS:

1. Typewriting in Spanish and Arabic, knowledge of administrative practices.
2. Sound knowledge of Spanish and Arabic.
3. Merit. Knowledge of English language.

Petitions should be addressed to the Spanish Embassy and those interested may call at this Mission within twenty days as from the above mentioned date.

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Anybody there?

IT is not easy to draw lessons from the mini flurry of interest in Washington about the recent statement by Mr. Bassam Abu Sherif, senior adviser to PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat, on prospects for a negotiated Arab-Israeli peace settlement based on Israeli and Palestinian states living side by side. We have always felt that more clarity from the Arab side on the possibility of a negotiated settlement would probably help achieve such a settlement. But we are also convinced that even if the Arabs were more clear about their peaceful intentions, the Israelis and the Americans would probably find new obstacles to place in the way of a solution which was based on the Palestinian right to national self-determination. We'd be delighted to be proven wrong.

Nevertheless, the PLO does well to communicate to western audiences its vision of a Middle East blessed with justice, peace and tranquility. The key dynamic in such a situation, we feel, is the nature and extent of American reciprocity. We don't expect Israelis to leap up and run for the negotiating table. But we do expect the American government to respond actively and constructively if, while it seeks to play the mediator's role, one of the protagonists proposes a process of justice and reconciliation which could lead to a stable peace. The peace-making effort will not succeed in one fell swoop. It will come in small, incremental steps, building upon one another until there is sufficient confidence for the protagonists to take the final leap forward. Mr. Abu Sherif — presumably representing the thoughts of his boss and of the PLO majority — has taken just such a step. He has articulated with some clarity a position that the PLO and the Arab states have always preferred to convey in slightly more cryptic terms. We anxiously await a response from Washington, or from Israel. Will we hear voices from there which speak of Israelis, Palestinians and other Arabs living in peace and with equal rights? We're listening.

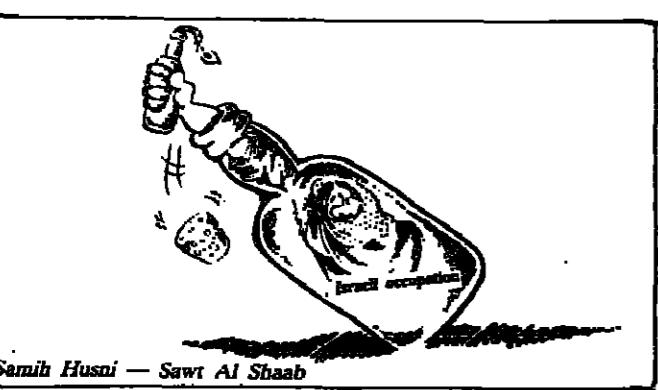
ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: Shamir's defiance

ISRAELI Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir has announced that his government will not implement a ruling by an international arbitration commission about the occupied Sinai enclave of Taba which belongs to Egypt. With this statement, Shamir has thus provided yet another evidence that Israel will not give up occupied Arab territory no matter how small its size is and regardless of the international laws and U.N. resolutions. This is a clear defiance of international law and a mockery of international norms and rules. It shows how determined Israel is to pursue its policies of aggression on the Arab countries and maintain its occupation of their lands by force, of course at the expense of peace in the Middle East. Shamir's statement came in advance of the commission's final ruling on the Taba issue, clearly displaying his government's total disregard to the commission's decisions and its separate peace treaty with Egypt. But of course Egypt will not remain passive vis-a-vis Israel's intransigent position and can never abandon its rights in Taba. Egypt will no doubt cling to its lawful right; and this could lead Egypt to abandon the Camp David agreements, something which observes believe is most feared by the United States, the architect of these agreements. The Taba question is a good lesson for the Arabs to learn in their dealings with Israel. Israel's intransigence over that issue clearly shows that it is not concerned with peace with the Arabs as long as that peace means a return of Arab land to its lawful owners. Israel is concerned with imposing capitulation on the Arab Nation while at the same time maintaining its hold over their territory.

Al Dustour: Israel committed to oppression

AS the uprising continues unabated in the occupied Arab territories, Israel is now opting to new measures that further demonstrate its criminal nature. Israel's defence minister has issued new orders to its troops and the Jewish settlers to open fire on Arab protesters who throw molotov cocktails bombs on Israeli vehicles and to demolish the homes of Arab people accused by the Israeli authorities of joining the resistance. By these measures, Rabin hopes to stifle the spirit of Arab resistance and quell the protests which his troops have proved to be unable to control any more. Rabin's new measures manifest Israel as a state totally committed to acts of terrorism and oppression against Arab civilians seeking freedom from foreign rule. The escalation of Israeli inhuman measures against the Arab population in this dangerous manner, shows that Israeli leaders have lost their minds and are no longer acting as humans respecting international laws. This is a clear sign that they are sooner or later bound to lose their battle against the oppressed people who are intent on achieving freedom. We deeply respect the Arab people and their sacrifices and are confident that their just struggle will be crowned with success.



Sawt Al Shaab: Source of pride

THE new Iraqi successes in the battlefield constitute a source of pride for the whole Arab Nation; and the heroic struggle of the Iraqi armed forces paint a bright picture of future generations. The Iranians who have been rejecting all calls for peace and making a mockery of the international laws are being dealt one defeat after another at the eastern flank of the Arab World. The Iraqi armed forces' liberation of the Fao peninsula marked the beginning of a series of rapid victories for Iraq along the whole length of the battlefield with Iran. These victories are being reflected in Palestine where the uprising is being intensified and Arab youths are heroically confronting the Israeli aggressors and thwarting their designs and conspiracies. The Iraqi armed forces' endeavours to liberate their land and to establish peace in the Gulf should prove to the Iranians that they cannot export their terrorism to the Arab countries, and that their Israeli-like tactics and aggression would not serve their ambition.

Sunday's Economic Pulse

By Dr. Fahed Fanek

At last, interest rates floated

AT long last, the Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) has decided to float interest rates on all kinds of direct credit extended by banks and finance corporations and on certain categories of deposits. Although this major step was long over-due, what counts now is that it was adopted with immediate effect.

The new banking regulations issued by the Central Bank (see the newspapers of 8/6/1988) included among other things, the cancellation of the ceiling which was imposed on Certificates of Deposits (CD's), previously 7.375 per cent annum, and the abolishing of the ceilings set for commissions chargeable on loans and other credit.

As of now, the depositor and his banker can agree on any interest rate on CD's, provided the amount of the CD is not less than JD 1000 and its term is not less than three months. We expect interest rates on sizeable CD's to shoot up to 10 per cent.

Deposits can, and in fact should, shift all or part of their time deposits upon maturity into CD's, in order to earn the higher interest commanded by this form of deposits.

In doing so, the depositor is not required to make any sacrifice. As a matter of fact a CD is the best and most convenient form of deposits. A CD can be sold, negotiated, discounted, or pledged as a collateral for credit, as may suit the holder at any point in time before its redemption. CD's are also nominal and accordingly the owner is protected if the document was lost or stolen.

Since interest on CD's is now floating, we can assume that the cancellation of ceilings on interest payable on all other forms of deposits is a matter of time.

The second measure taken by the Central Bank means full fledged floating of interest rates on all forms of bank facilities. The overall interest or cost charged by banks to borrowers is comprised of two components: interest with a ceiling of 8 per cent p.a. and commission which used to have a ceiling of 1 to 1.5 per cent per annum which is

now unrestricted and can be negotiated between the bank and the borrower. Thus the overall interest became fully free as it can go up or down by changing the commission component as agreed from time to time between lenders and borrowers. The ceiling on the interest component is thus redundant and meaningless.

From now on, the overall interest rates on banks credit will vary in accordance with the risk and financial soundness of the borrower concerned. We expect the basic rate for the prime borrowers to be 10 per cent, going up to any level to reflect the risk rating assigned to each customer. The result is obviously that borrowed funds will become more costly. This may push many businessmen and traders to use their own capital rather than borrowed money.

This desired objective is also confirmed by the Central Bank orders to the banks not to grant any credit by virtue of pledging deposits in foreign currencies as collateral. Such credit must be liquidated within three months. The practice which is now prevented by the Central Bank used to allow smart businessmen to send their own capital abroad in foreign exchange and work locally with borrowed funds. They were able to earn free of tax interest on their foreign deposits while using the interest paid on their JD loans to shield their profits from income tax.

The measure taken by the Central Bank has far reaching consequences. Businessmen should understand it well and know how to deal with it. For the first time we offered an incentive to serve the public good, while most previous incentives were costly to the Treasury and did not achieve except the profiteering of certain groups.

We congratulated the Central Bank for finally taking the proper measure of floating interest rates. At last, we in this column, have something to celebrate.

'Basel was running with his mother, 50 metres from home, when an Israeli army sniper shot him in the head'

Editor's note: The Palestinian Human Rights Information Centre (PHRIC) in Jerusalem has been publishing an "uprising update," which aims to clarify the existing human rights situation as it develops in the occupied territories, as the uprising enters its sixth month. The information bulletin is distributed in cooperation with the Database Project on Palestinian Human Rights, whose international office is in Chicago. These updates will be published in the Jordan Times as they are received. Included in these information bulletins are lists of those killed during the uprising, as confirmed by the International Com-

(From a report by a delegation from the North American Coordinating Committee of Non-Governmental Organisations on the Question of Palestine)

At about 12:30 p.m. at Rafah camp in Gaza on Jan. 9, 1988, all was quiet until some children began to hurl stones at a group of Israeli occupation soldiers posted near the border with Egypt. The soldiers responded by launching some 30-40 cannisters of tear gas of various types. The residents began to flee, taking with them the small children in order to protect them from the gases. Many girls and young men were overcome. One baby of less than a year old who was gassed that day developed kidney trouble, was operated on and was hospitalised for some twenty days. Some of the young people tried to douse some of the cannisters with water, but most simply ran.

One young man, Basel Khalil al-Yazuri was running near his mother about fifty metres from their house, when an Israeli army sniper shot him in the head. The bullet entered the left temple and was lodged in the back of Basel's brain.

Basel was rushed from the UNRWA clinic in Rafah to the Nasr Hospital in nearby Khan Yunis. Basel's father, his two brothers Muhammad and Adil and two younger brothers followed in a private car. At an Israeli military checkpoint between Rafah and Khan Yunis, the IDF soldiers allowed the ambulance to pass, but forced the family to stop in their car and ordered them out of the car. Then they threw the father into the car with the two small boys, ordering them to stay inside. The soldiers ordered Basel's brothers to clean the street where a previous roadblock had been placed. They refused and protested that their brother was in the ambulance ahead and was critically injured and they needed to accompany him to the hospital.

Then the commanding officer called for two soldiers who "have no sensitivity" to beat the two brothers into submission. All fifty or so soldiers at the checkpoint came forward.

The soldiers beat them for some time until they submitted. After cleaning the debris from the street, the soldiers again began to beat the boys and ordered them to put a burning tire inside a nearby house. They refused again and the soldiers forced open the door to the house and shot a tear gas bomb inside the house. (It was later learned that this was the bomb that killed Wijdan Faris and her unborn baby). The licence number of the Israeli military vehicle carrying the soldiers that beat the al-Yazuri boys and launched the tear gas that killed Wijdan Faris is 758763.

At this point, while the soldiers continued beating, the father got out of the car and began to shout to the Israeli soldiers: "You've already killed one of my sons, are you now going to kill the others, too?" The commander permitted

members of the Red Cross, lists of detainees, and updated human rights reports as they develop. While some sources and background material is publicly available, most of the information comes from first hand reports, field-worker visits to hospitals, refugee camps, towns and villages, and from working relationships between the PHRIC and other institutions in the occupied territories. The material is collected and verified in Jerusalem and sent to Chicago, where the updates are produced and distributed internationally.

On the third day Basel died, having received no medical attention at all. His father was at his bedside at the moment his breathing and heart stopped on Monday morning at 8:30 a.m. Basel's father obtained the death certificate from a doctor in the hospital, but the Security Service in the hospital refused to allow him to take Basel's body to Gaza (They claimed it was essential to settle the \$1,000 hospital bill first). In fact, however, families of those killed by Israelis are almost never permitted to reclaim their dead.

Basel's father refused the demand for payment. "You killed my son and now you want me to pay," he said. The police were called to mediate the situation between the father and the accounting office. Finally, the policeman said: "Don't worry, I'll know how to get it out of you later." And the body was first transferred to Abu Kabir, where an autopsy was to be performed.

On Tuesday, Jan. 12, the body was returned to the Rafah military headquarters. The Israeli-

appointed mukhtar of the camp instructed the family to go to headquarters with no more than three family members for the burial. Instead the whole family showed with some of the Shuyukh of the neighbourhood, in order to wash the body and give it a proper Muslim burial. The Israelis made the party wait two and one-half hours until 11:30 p.m. and then told them to go ahead to the cemetery to meet the body there. Soldiers surrounded the cemetery. Upon washing the body, the family saw that Basel was cut in a straight line from under his chin down to his crotch. A long cut had been made where his heart was and two cuts were made at his kidneys. The family believes that organs had been taken out to be used in transplants.

Ten days later, two days after the father was told that the killing was an accident that the army regretted and that an investigation would take place, the family home was attacked by soldiers. The picture of Basel and a sign identifying him as a martyr was torn down by the Israeli army. The soldiers beat Basel's mother and three of his sisters and tried to arrest his father. He pleaded with them and refused to be taken into custody because of his heart condition. Since the funeral, two of Basel's brothers have been arrested and imprisoned. A third brother stays away from home for fear of arrest.

In light of the above-mentioned deficiencies associated with Western and Communist journalism with respect to peace, some researchers have proposed a restructuring of the basic concepts governing our views not only of peace, but of communication as well. A good starting point would be a return to the seminal views of John Dewey who was among the first to recognise the centrality of communication not only for the attainment of peace, but also for the survival of mankind as well. Some participants in the ICA convention have suggested an expansion of peace education programmes in schools and universities around the world. They have also recommended paying special attention to the education of journalism students, the communicators of tomorrow on the need for a neutral commitment to the concept of peace in media work.

But given the ideological and political imperatives impinging on newsmen, there does not seem to be much for the media to accomplish. One of the basic notions that we in the scholarly journalistic community have come to firmly hold is the inability of the mass media to do miracles in a world where political, economic and military resources have a final say in deciding substantial outcomes. If mass media are accredited for anything in our search for peace, it is for their role as a complementary factor, only one among many. Yet, despite this seemingly gloomy reality, the responsible statement embodied into UNESCO Charter in 1948 that "since wars begin in the mind of man, it is in the mind of man that the defence of peace must be constructed" continues to be widely received worldwide.

Dr. Muhammad L. Ayash

What lies at the heart of Middle East arms buildup?

By John Fullerton

Reuter

ping?

A matter of status?

Analysts say many new weapons are often largely symbols of national pride, and are not necessarily status and strategic ambition.

Syria has bought the latest Soviet fighter, the MiG-29, as part of President Hafez Al Assad's drive for military parity with Israel. Western diplomats estimate Damascus owes Moscow \$14 billion, mainly for arms purchases.

"Strictly speaking, the MiG-1A1 does not make a great deal of sense militarily for Egypt," said a foreign intelligence specialist based in Cairo.

"It's a political not a military weapon. It sets the stage for Egypt's re-emergence as a regional power... This is about national pride and self-esteem," he added.

Analysts say the Middle East has spent some \$25 billion on arms in the past 10 years. There is no sign of a let-up in accelerating competition between major powers to sell or simply give advanced equipment to Arab states and Israel.

The potential buyers' interest has been whetted by fear of the bomb that killed Wijdan Faris and her unborn baby. The licence number of the Israeli military vehicle carrying the soldiers that beat the al-Yazuri boys and launched the tear gas that killed Wijdan Faris is 758763.

But are high tech arms really needed when youths armed with stones confront Israel's modern army, when a Palestinian fighter clinging to a hang-glider penetrates Israel air defences and Iran's relatively primitive Silkworm missiles threaten Gulf shipping?

Serviceable Soviet armour has

been refurbished and obsolete equipment replaced with M-60 tanks and M-113 troop carriers.

Egypt plans to acquire 555 M-1A1s, of which the first 15 are expected to arrive in 1991. The remainder will be assembled locally at the rate of 120 a year.

The tank, the F-16 warplane and E2-C Hawkeye radar aircraft absorb the bulk of American military help worth \$1.2 billion a year.

The air force has 80 F-16s with 40 more on order while five Hawkeyes are in service. U.S. industry sources say.

A factory is now being built in Egypt to assemble the tanks, which carry advanced laminar armour, computerised fire-control, laser sight and low-light television. Production will cost Egypt an estimated \$1 billion.

The Egyptians produce good labour-intensive military equipment such as uniforms, boots and small arms. They also are clever at the other extreme in producing high quality optics," said a Western analyst.

Quality is uneven."

A U.S. industry source said: "Our biggest problem is developing Egyptian technical know-how." Another problem was bureaucracy.

"There is just too much of it," said one foreign defence attache. "It tends to stifle individual talent and encourage mediocrity, with competing ministries and authorities bungling long-term policy decisions."

The tank facility could be a regional centre, with potential exports to Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Pakistan," said one Western arms salesman.

He added: "But our professional soldiers have a decent respect for Egypt's armed forces. They are making headway."

Egypt's former ambassador to Washington Ashraf Ghorbel said it would be a gross misjudgement to deny the nation's need for modern weapons such as the M-1A1 tank."

"They are part of a strategic deterrent, so our voice will carry weight," he said.

OPEN FORUM

Promoting peace

NEW ORLEANS: More than 2,000 media educators, researchers and advisers from around the world met here early this month to debate how mass communication could further the cause of peace. The gathering, organised as the 36th Convention of the International Communication Association, underscores growing dissatisfaction with media performance with respect to peace in national and international arenas.

For most researchers, flawed media approaches to peace are largely due to problematic journalistic models that have so far failed to grasp the basic meaning of the concept of peace. Whether Communist or Western, press coverage of peace-related issues and events has been accused as being both superficial and ideologically biased.

MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

Israeli prisoners slash wrists

TEL AVIV (R) — Seventy-two Israeli prisoners slashed their wrists with razors and knives as a protest against conditions at Beersheba prison, a jail spokesman said Saturday. All of the prisoners were treated and released within the prison. The protest was the climax of three days of disturbances at bloc six of the prison, where criminal offenders refused to eat prison food or clean their cells, spokesman John Tester said. They demanded more time to walk about freely and more telephone calls. Tester said the prison at Beersheba in the Negev Desert had been very hot because of the weather, and that the bloc held "difficult" prisoners. Prisoners began slashing their wrists Friday night. "After 2 a.m., the last one cut himself, the prison manager talked to them and told them what happened in the bloc was their own doing because of their misbehaviour," Tester said. "Once they start toeing the line, they'll get their privileges back," Tester said the manager told prisoners. He said prisoners had resumed eating and cleaning their cells Saturday, but he did not know if the crisis was over.

Iran charters seven supertankers

LONDON (R) — The National Iranian Tanker Company (NITC) chartered seven supertankers in the past week, London shipbrokers said Friday. They said that was an unusually large amount for any one firm to charter in such a short time. One tanker with a cargo capacity of 356,324 tonnes and a second with a capacity of 262,267 were chartered for six to 12 month periods to be used for storing oil, the brokers said. Iran is paying \$18,000 a day for each of them. In addition, Iran chartered the Liberian-flag tanker Eastern Courage, with a capacity of 267,807 tonnes, and the Greek-registered Panopis L., which can carry 268,951 tonnes, to be used on its Gulf shuttle service, at a rate of \$33,000 daily, the brokers said. Brokers said the Iranians chartered three supertankers for single trips from the Gulf.

U.S. unhappy over Senegalese move

WASHINGTON (AP) — The United States protested to Senegal Friday for dropping charges against two Libyans arrested for allegedly carrying explosives. "The government of Senegal released, without trial, two known Libyan terrorists caught red-handed in Dakar airport last February attempting to smuggle arms and explosives into Senegal," State Department spokesman Charles Redman said. The two men were sent back to Libya Thursday, according to official spokesman in Dakar. "We're extremely disappointed by Senegal's action," Redman said. "It raises questions about that country's commitment to the struggle against international terrorism." He said U.S. "dissatisfaction" was communicated through diplomatic channels.

U.S. commander visits Oman

MUSCAT (AP) — General George B. Crist, head of the U.S. central command, has held talks with Omani Defence Minister Mutasim Al Busaidi and senior military staff, diplomatic sources reported Saturday. Crist flew in Friday from his Florida headquarters, Centcom, which oversees the U.S. naval task force in and near the Gulf. The sources said the purpose of Crist's three-day visit is to discuss issues of "mutual concern."

Dutch ship to ferry U.S. frigate

BAHRAIN (R) — A Dutch cargo ship has arrived in the Gulf to take the mine-damaged U.S. frigate Samuel B. Roberts to the United States for repairs. U.S. navy officials in the region said Saturday. Shipping sources said the semi-submersible 25,743-tonne Mighty Servant II had moored alongside the frigate in Dubai. The 3,585-tonne frigate hit a mine northeast of Qatar April 15. Ten seamen were injured and Washington blamed Iran for planting the mine. The U.S. navy raided two Iranian oil platforms in retaliation, sparking the biggest naval battle between U.S. and Iranian forces. Six Iranian vessels, including two frigates, were sunk or disabled April 18. Shipping sources said it would take at least three days for the Samuel B. Roberts to be loaded aboard the Dutch ship.

British MPs plan Iran visit

LONDON (Agencies) — Four British members of parliament (MPs) will fly to Iran Sunday to try to ease strained relations between the two countries, the Church of England said Friday.

A spokeswoman said the four, from several parties, would be part of a Church of England mission which hoped to find common ground with Iran that might lead to the release of three British hostages held in Lebanon.

The hostages, kidnapped in Beirut and believed to be held by pro-Iranian militiamen, are church envoy Terry Waite, British journalist John McCarthy and Belfast teacher Brian Keenan.

The spokeswoman said the group would meet senior Iranian officials but gave no details. It did not plan to negotiate a deal for the hostages' release, she added.

"It is a fact-finding mission to find ways to improve relations with Iran which could lead to the freeing of Terry Waite and the other British hostages," she said.

Another Palestinian martyred in uprising

(Continued from page 1) Palestinians also blocked a road with rocks in Al Tur, a neighbourhood which was the scene of violent demonstrations in the first weeks of the uprising.

The wave of protests in Jerusalem declined in February after police doubled their deployment in the city from 750 to about 1,500.

Israel Television reported Friday that police detained three

During one operation, in the West Bank village of Beit Furik, soldiers shot dead a Palestinian after being stoned by a mob of 700 protesters. The soldiers were on their way to demolish the home of Ahmed Hanani, an alleged member of the gang that assassinated Nablus Mayor Zafer Al Masri in March 1986.

In other developments Saturday, Palestinian students smashed the windows of a police van in the commercial sector of Arab Jerusalem and blocked the main street with stones and garbage wagons.

They also blocked off a nearby street and stoned cars. Stones also were thrown at a police post atop the Damascus Gate. Police fired rubber bullets and tear gas to disperse the demonstrators and arrested at least 19 protesters.

Ozal escapes attempt on life

(Continued from page 1) But he has recently lost popularity. Opinion polls indicate widespread frustration over an inflation rate which has leapt to just over 70 per cent from around 40 per cent in November.

Ozal returned three days ago from a visit to Greece, the first by a Turkish prime minister since 1952, and controversial talks with Greek Prime Minister Andreas Papandreou on the rapprochement between their off-feeding countries.

"I extend to you my sincere wishes of goodwill after the assassination attempt from which you have escaped with such good luck," Anatolia quoted Papandreou as saying in a message to Ozal.

Senior Motherland Party

U.N. chief pursues Gulf peace bid

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar said Friday he was in weekly contact with Iranian and Iraqi officials and that he was not giving up on trying to end the Iran-Iraq war.

Perez de Cuellar briefed the Security Council on his latest efforts to mediate an end to fighting. He told reporters he was not discouraged that the 11-month-old Security Council resolution on terminating the conflict had not been implemented.

Most diplomatic observers say the U.N. resolution demanding an immediate ceasefire, troop withdrawal and prisoner exchange is virtually a dead letter.

"I told the Security Council that I am continuing my efforts," Perez de Cuellar told reporters outside the council chamber. "I am not the kind of man who gives

up. On the contrary, I intend to pursue my efforts and continue my contacts with the parties."

He said that although there were no new initiatives he continues to speak with Iranian and Iraqi officials once a week. "Resolution 598 is there and it is not for the secretary-general to give up," he said.

Perez de Cuellar said he was not exerting pressure but trying to influence the belligerents to move to a flexible position which will allow rapid implementation of the resolution." He said the security council still wants the resolution to be implemented as quickly as possible.

Sources speaking on condition of anonymity, said Perez de Cuellar delivered to the council a dismal assessment of U.N. efforts towards ending the conflict and asked the council for new instructions on how to proceed.

Libya denies giving weapons to IRA

BEIRUT (Agencies) — Libya denied Saturday that it had smuggled weapons to the Irish Republican Army (IRA) in Ireland.

Britain's Northern Ireland secretary, Tom King, said Friday that the IRA, which is fighting British rule in Northern Ireland, had a deadly stockpile of arms and explosives smuggled in from Libya.

"These allegations are false. This is not the first time that the British authorities reveal such futile information," said the official Libyan news agency JANA, monitored in Beirut.

The Irish problem was not recent and IRA operations were the symbol of a political problem which has nothing to do with Libya," the agency said.

"Britain should find a solution to the problem instead of blaming others," it added.

British security officials said Libya smuggled high-powered semtex plastic explosive to the IRA and that the outlawed group used it in a bomb Wednesday that killed six British soldiers in a military van outside Belfast, Northern Ireland.

"The timing of stirring such claims and publicising them is not hidden in its purposes and expresses a pre-coordination between the U.S. administration and the British authorities so that the states taking part in the industrial summit find themselves

Arab reportedly negotiates release of German hostage

BEIRUT (Agencies) — An Arab figure is negotiating with pro-Iranian extremists in Beirut to release West German hostage Rudolf Cordes, the Lebanon News Agency reported Saturday.

The privately-owned agency said the unidentified "Arab mediator has contacted the concerned circles in the past two days in an effort to obtain the release of ... Cordes."

The report quoted unnamed diplomatic sources as saying the contacts were held at "the consulate of a Western country in Beirut."

"The mediator has left and will return soon carrying answers to a number of conditions laid down by the kidnappers," the agency added, without elaboration.

The report, like earlier reports of mediation efforts, could not be verified. The Lebanon News Agency has not been notably active in covering the long-running hostage drama in Lebanon, where 18 foreigners are missing and believed held captive by extremist factions.

Cordes, then Beirut manager for West German's Hoechst AG chemical company, was kidnapped in West Beirut Jan. 17 last year.

A pro-Iranian group calling itself Holy Warriors for Freedom claimed July 8 last year that it was holding him along with a West

British engineer, Alfred Schmidt. Schmidt was released Sept. 7.

Message to hostage

Beirut's Al Safir Daily published messages to kidnapped British television journalist John McCarthy from his parents and friends hoping for his release.

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Qatar's banks look to retail market

DOHA (R) — Qatar's banks, struggling to cope with a Gulf recession and a stagnating economy, have launched a drive into the emirate's retail market in what could lead to a head-on clash with foreign banks.

Bankers said bad debts and sluggish government spending had caused a sharp drop in new lending, prompting banks to expand their services to small clients to try to generate new revenue.

"As corporate lending is no more viable, some local banks are following the foreign banks in a move into retail banking," said one banker.

The nine local banks turned in mixed results last year. The biggest, Qatar National Bank (QNB), doubled its net profits while the second largest, Doha Bank, registered a steep decline.

Bankers said Qatar's five foreign banks, reluctant to expand lending because borrowers had for some time been unable to repay loans and earnings were diverted into provisions for bad debts, might see profits squeezed by increased competition in the lucrative retail market.

Teller machines

The push by local banks into the retail market has led to a scramble to install automated teller machines, offer credit cards and extend small-scale consumer

policies of local banks could increase pressure further.

Hostile environment

"The environment is becoming more hostile for foreign banks... it makes a lot of sense to move into a partnership with local (banking) group," said one foreign banker.

One strong reason is the tax burden imposed on foreign banks while local banks still enjoy a tax holiday. Citibank pulled out of Qatar last year and sold its operation to locally-based Al Ahli

Bank of Qatar, launched in 1984.

Al Ahli's fast expanding operation saw net profits double last year to 10.52 million riyals (\$2.9 million) from 5.21 million riyals (\$1.4 million) in 1986.

With its late start-up, bankers said Al Ahli managed to avoid some of the problem loans which hit earnings of other banks.

Some banks had pinned hopes for an upturn in Qatar's plans to tap gas reserves in its North Field, where drilling in a \$1.3 billion first phase is due to begin in mid-August.

But a senior adviser to a Qatari

bank said most of the gas project would go to foreign contractors and any spin-off business would be small and short-lived.

In the meantime, lending has not yet started to pick up and economic activity remains at a low ebb. Qatar Monetary Agency figures show loans and advances rose by just 3.3 per cent to 1.59 billion riyals (\$437 million) at the end of 1987.

"Qatari banks, still awash in deposits, are unable to find secure projects in which to place their money," said another banker.

Housing starts in U.S. drop sharply in May

WASHINGTON (R) — The building of new houses in the United States dropped sharply in May as the pace of construction of new single-family homes sank to its lowest level in more than three years, the Commerce Department said Friday.

The sharp decline came as a surprise to economists, who speculated that it was the result of a combined impact of rising home prices, higher mortgage rates and a belief among builders that interest rates would continue rising.

Groundbreaking for new home construction fell 12.2 per cent in May to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 1.38 million units, following a modest 3.1 per cent gain in April, the Commerce Department said.

The decline, the largest drop since December, snapped a string of three consecutive monthly increases and left starts 13.4 per

cent below their May 1987 rate. The biggest drop came in multiple-unit buildings, where starts fell 18.9 per cent in May to an annual rate of 396,000.

Economists had expected a decline in multiple-unit starts, especially after April's astonishing 36.7 per cent rise. The market has been chronically weak because rental unit vacancy rates nationwide are at a 20-year high and many tax benefits of investing in such units have been eliminated, they said.

What puzzled economists was that starts on single-family home construction fell 9.2 per cent to an annual rate of 988,000 units, the lowest level since January 1985, following another significant drop in April of 7.2 per cent.

"It's puzzling as well as disconcerting to see this kind of a figure," said economist Mark Obensky of the U.S. League of

Savings Institutions.

"What that suggests is that this wasn't just a fluke — that this is a market that's in a decline," said Martin Regalia, chief economist at National Council of Savings Institutions.

"The single-family housing market, I think, is going to be on the ebb for the rest of the year," Regalia said.

Most economists had predicted there would be between 1.45 million and 1.55 million starts on housing construction this year, compared with last year's 1.62 million, but some of the more optimistic ones now say they may lower their forecasts.

PASSPORT LOST

I lost my international passport on 16/6/88 travelling by bus from Amman to Zarqa. Details of passport: Name of Holder: Abu Taher Father's Name: Hobib Ullah Passport No.: B. 252660 Issued at Chittagong, Bangladesh.

If anybody finds it, please contact: Abu Taher, Post Box No. 7378, Camp Post, Zarqa, Jordan.

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Location: Jabal Amman Fourth Circle — Bourjeddene Street, opposite Corner Supermarket and Randa Pharmacy.

Call tel: 651190/ 673025

Jordan power generation increases

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan's total power generation last year amounted to 3,486 million kilowatt-hour, of which 3,122 million was used for domestic consumption and 364 million for export to Syria, according to an annual report released by the Jordan Electricity Authority (JEA) Saturday.

The report indicated that total electric energy employed for domestic use increased by 14.7 per cent over the amount consumed in the previous year.

It also showed that the JEA generated 87.5 per cent of the total power produced in the country.

AMMAN FINANCIAL MARKET

Activity on the Amman Financial Market for June 18, 1988.

| Number | Volume | Contracts |
|--|-----------|-------------|
| 212530 | JD 178177 | 275 |
| Regular market: | | |
| Dar Al Shaab Press, Printing, and Publishing | 85900 | JD 48584 81 |
| Arab Bank Ltd. | 180 | JD 20586 5 |
| Arab Aluminum Manufacturing | 8550 | JD 14491 15 |
| Parallel market: | | |
| Development bonds: | 16350 | JD 7350 |
| Treasury bills & bonds: | 934 | JD 10229 |
| Other debentures: | | |

Weekly Amman Financial Market trading

AMMAN (J.T.) — The following table summarises trading activities at the Amman Financial Market during the week starting Saturday, June 11, '88 and ending Wednesday June 15, '88. (Figures in Jordanian dinars).

| Name of company | Number of shares | Volume of trade | Opening price | Closing price | Per share value |
|---|------------------|-----------------|---------------|---------------|-----------------|
| Banking and financial institutions | | | | | |
| Industrial Development Bank | 650 | 979 | 1.500 | 1.510 | 1.000 |
| Petra Bank | 4000 | 7700 | 1.940 | 1.920 | 1.000 |
| Jordan Islamic Bank | 2729 | 4783 | 1.750 | 1.770 | 1.000 |
| Jordan Kuwait Bank | 3061 | 4496 | 1.450 | 1.510 | 1.000 |
| Jordan Giza Bank | 3837 | 7191 | 1.200 | 1.230 | 1.000 |
| Housing Bank | | | | | |
| Arab Jordan Investment Bank | 12000 | 25200 | 2.100 | 2.100 | 1.000 |
| Caro Amman Bank | 38 | 1102 | 30.000 | 29.000 | 5.000 |
| Bank of Jordan | 384 | 5894 | 15.400 | 15.500 | 5.000 |
| Arab Bank | 520 | 59408 | 114.250 | 114.000 | 10.000 |
| Jordan National Bank | 7010 | 18044 | 2.540 | 2.580 | 1.000 |
| Jordan Finance House for Development | 8200 | 7619 | 0.900 | 0.960 | 1.000 |
| Jordan Investment and Finance Corporation | 6125 | 10688 | 2.000 | 1.990 | 1.000 |
| Finance and Credit Corporation | 34712 | 18789 | 0.550 | 0.550 | 1.000 |
| National Financial Investments | 10000 | 18012 | 1.800 | 1.800 | 1.000 |
| National Portfolio Securities | 31307 | 22649 | 0.720 | 0.750 | 1.000 |
| Arab Finance Corporation (Jordan) | 34034 | 25621 | 0.760 | 0.760 | 1.000 |
| Jordan Securities Corporation | 65 | 1024 | 15.950 | 15.750 | 2.000 |
| Real Estate Financing Corporation | | | | | |
| Al Madkr Exchange | | | | | |

Insurance and reinsurance

| | | | | | | |
|--|-------|------|-------|-------|-------|--|
| Jordan French Insurance | | | | | | |
| REFCO Life Insurance | | | | | | |
| Jordan Insurance | | | | | | |
| Arab Life and Accident Insurance | | | | | | |
| Yarmouk Insurance and Reinsurance | | | | | | |
| Holy Land Insurance | | | | | | |
| Philadelphia Insurance | | | | | | |
| Arab Union International Insurance | | | | | | |
| Jerusalem Insurance | | | | | | |
| Jordan-Gulf Insurance | | | | | | |
| General Insurance | | | | | | |
| Jordan Eagle Insurance | | | | | | |
| Middle East Insurance | | | | | | |
| Al-Izdiher Insurance | | | | | | |
| National Ahbab Insurance | | | | | | |
| Arab Belgian Insurance and Reinsurance | | | | | | |
| United Insurance | 10397 | 9683 | 0.950 | 0.950 | 1.000 | |

Services and industries

| | | | | | |
|---|--------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| General Investments | 76 | 97 | 1.270 | 1.270 | 1.000 |
| Imraa for Investment and Financial Facilities | 6022 | 3118 | 0.540 | 0.530 | 1.000 |
| Darco for Housing and Investment | 118275 | 52923 | 0.440 | 0.450 | 1.000 |
| Real Estate Investment (Aqaro) | 500 | 200 | 0.410 | 0.400 | 1.000 |
| Jordan Gulf Real Estate Investment | 2423 | 727 | 0.290 | 0.300 | 1.000 |
| Jordan Leasing Corporation | | | | | |
| Petra Enterprises and Leasing Equipments | 31076 | 5601 | 0.680 | 0.680 | 1.000 |
| Equipment Leasing & Maintenance/Tel'jeero | 14240 | 4384 | 0.780 | 0.780 | 1.000 |
| International Contracting & Investment | 16650 | 3494 | 0.190 | 0.210 | 1.000 |
| Jordanian Electric Power | 5671 | 8562 | 1.500 | 1.510 | 1.000 |
| Irbid District Electricity | 50 | 47 | 0.960 | 0.930 | 1.000 |
| | | | | | |

Gandhi foe wins major by-elections

ALLAHABAD, India (R) — India's former defence minister placed himself to unite the country's fragmented opposition against his old boss, Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, with a crushing by-election win Saturday.

Election officials said Vishwanath Pratap Singh, who based his campaign on alleged corruption in Gandhi's government, had a lead of more than 90,000 votes over Gandhi nominee Sunil Shastri, son of former premier Lal Bahadur Shastri, with only 50,000 ballots left to count.

"This could be a watershed in

Indian politics," said one Western diplomat in New Delhi.

Gandhi, during a trip to the southwestern state of Karnataka, shrugged off the win, the Press Trust of India news agency said.

But Singh, leading Shastri by 163,058 votes to 71,868 near the end of a marathon count that started Friday, said his win was

one of great significance. "This election proves that united action against Rajiv Gandhi's Congress (I) Party is possible," Singh said.

"We may not have a merger, but the opposition parties can certainly come together for a general election," he added.

Congress was defending all seven parliamentary seats at stake in Thursday's by-elections. It lost at least two other seats where a majority of opposition parties backed one candidate, as they did in Allahabad.

The northern city is Gandhi's ancestral home and a constituency once held by his grandfather Jawaharlal Nehru, the country's first leader after gaining independence from Britain in 1947.

Congress held one seat where the opposition could not agree on a candidate. Counting was held up by rigging charges in another and counting was still under way in the rest.

Singh, 56, quit Gandhi's cabinet last year charging that Congress officials had taken bribes from Swedish and West German firms which won big defence contracts. The government denied the allegations.

Presenting himself as the "Mr. Clean" of Indian politics, he drew national attention in a campaign across the dusty constituency of Allahabad from the back of a motorcycle, dressed in the simple white cotton clothes of the revolution.

"Rajiv Gandhi has been judged in this election in the people's court and has been found guilty of corruption," Singh said as his victory became inevitable.

One opposition leader, Haryana State Chief Minister Devi Lal, has said Singh should head a combined opposition front in general elections which must be held by the end of 1989.

Savimbi declares support for Angolan peace talks

JAMBA, Angola (R) — Rebel leader Jonas Savimbi declared his support Friday for current four-party talks on ending Angola's civil war but said only meetings between his National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA) guerrillas and the Luanda government could bring peace.

Savimbi spoke at his sprawling bush headquarters at Jamba in southeastern Angola, shortly before he was due to fly to Washington for talks with U.S. government officials and members of Congress.

The negotiations between Cuba, South Africa, the Marxist Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola (MPLA), Angolan government and the United States which began in London last month were encouraging, although UNITA was not represented, Savimbi said.

But he added: "Without direct talks between UNITA and the MPLA there can be no peace in our country."

The pro-Western UNITA, now backed by South African forces and U.S. weapons, has fought a 13-year war against the MPLA, which is supported by Cuba and the Soviet Union. UNITA says it wants to participate in a government of national unity.

South Africa links its withdrawal from Namibia, the vast territory south of Angola which Pretoria rules in defiance of the United Nations, with a Cuban military pullout from Angola.

Savimbi told a news conference that Cuba would comply with Soviet views, adding:

"This is the first time the Russians are implying they are accepting there is a linkage between the total withdrawal of troops from Angola and the independence of Namibia."

In Washington Savimbi is due to meet U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs Chester Crocker, the main U.S. negotiator on Angola, and to confer with congressmen.

U.N. appeals for 'Sharpeville six'

UNITED NATIONS (R) — The Security Council issued a new call Friday for South Africa to commute the death sentences on the "Sharpeville six" five men and a woman condemned to hang for complicity in the 1984 mob killing of a black township official.

The resolution was adopted unanimously and without debate at a meeting that lasted only a few minutes.

The council adopted a similar resolution March 16.

Zambia requested the latest meeting after the Pretoria supreme court Monday rejected an application to reopen the case. It extended a stay of execution until July 19.

Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar and the Foreign Minis-

ters of Australia, New Zealand, Denmark, Sweden, Iceland, Finland and Norway appealed this week to South African President P.W. Botha to grant clemency.

The council resolution "calls once again upon the South African authorities to stay execution and commute the death sentences imposed on the Sharpeville six."

U.N. debt crisis could force closure

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar met Friday with United Nations (U.N.) delegates about the nearly \$700 million member countries owe the United Nations, a debt that officials say could close the organisation.

The secretary-general held talks with Eastern European delegates Friday. He met with Western European representatives Wednesday and held separate discussions Thursday with Asian countries and Latin American and Caribbean states. He is

expected to meet with African nations next week and then announce the results of his consultations.

Perez de Cuellar and U.N. staff officials have said the United Nations could become insolvent by late October unless new funds are found.

The United States is responsible for the majority of the debt, owing \$467 million of the \$691 million outstanding.

In contrast, the Soviet Union has launched a campaign over the past year to increase its influence at the world body.

and standing at the United Nations, paying off about \$60 million to the regular budget and beginning to repay about \$200 million it owed for past peacekeeping operations, which come under a separate budget.

Most of the U.S. funds have been withheld in the last few years because of congressional disagreements with U.N. policies: frustrations over allegations of inefficiency at the United Nations; and in an attempt to influence Soviet personnel policy at the world body.

Guns — a way of life in northwest Pakistan

By Eric Hall
Reuter

DARRA, Pakistan — The customer rams home a fresh magazine and sends bullets from the Kalashnikov-style rifle whining over the heads of two small schoolgirls with prettily painted eyes. They do not even flinch.

Walking the dusty main street of Darra, arms capital of Pakistan's northwest frontier, is not for the nervous type.

Outside hundreds of gunshops lining the street, customers crack off test shots, apparently unconcerned about where the bullets may fall.

For more than a hundred years, the gunsmiths of Darra have been making copies of every conceivable weapon, or smuggling in the genuine article to sell.

A century ago, they sold guns to kill soldiers of Britain's imperial army. Most recently, they have been selling guns to kill Soviet troops in neighboring Afghanistan.

The Soviet army is leaving, but gunshop proprietors say there is still a healthy "export" trade to the rest of Pakistan. And the locals continue to feed among themselves enthusiastically.

The northwest frontier province, inhabited by fierce mountain tribes, was created by the former British administration in India as a buffer region against the Afghans and imperial Russia.

Pakistan maintains loose control over the region but tribal law still rules, and Darra's gunsmiths carry on their trade unhindered.

The gunshop proprietors, mainly Afridi people, are proud of their role in arming their guerrilla cousins over the border to fight Soviet troops.

"We were the first to supply them with guns before all these foreign weapons started coming in," said Akbar of Gul Akbar and Sons, arms dealers.

"It wasn't the Geneva agreement that got the Soviets out," he said, referring to the pact which is sending Moscow's troops home. "It was this," he cried waving a rifle in the air.

A copy of a seven-millimetre, single-shot rifle costs the normal customer the equivalent of about \$130.

"But we give it to the Mujahideen for \$80" said

Akbar.

Around town, copies of Soviet Kalashnikov assault rifles cost about \$240, an anti-aircraft machine gun about \$1,500.

Darra's gunsmiths, however, admit the real thing is better. Captured Soviet weaponry or other smuggled arms are at least twice the price of copies.

In the backstreets, tiny workshops turn out each component.

A 75-year-old man who says he has been making guns for 60 years sits chipping a wooden block into a rifle stock.

Next door, another man casts breech mechanisms. His neighbours polish them and get them working.

"Try this one," says another old man with a soft smile and professorial glasses. The cartridge slips in nicely but the bolt is difficult to push home — Not a gun you would trust in an emergency.

A young boy sitting amid piles of metal shavings which irritate the skin turns a gun barrel, carving out the spiral inside which gives a rifle bullet speed and accuracy.

In another street, cartridge makers hammer out new ammunition.

In one shop, a tall Afridi with a Muslim skull cap tugs lead into the tops of cartridges. These are dum-dum bullets, soft-nosed shells banned under international laws of war because they flatten on impact and tear gaping holes in bone and muscle.

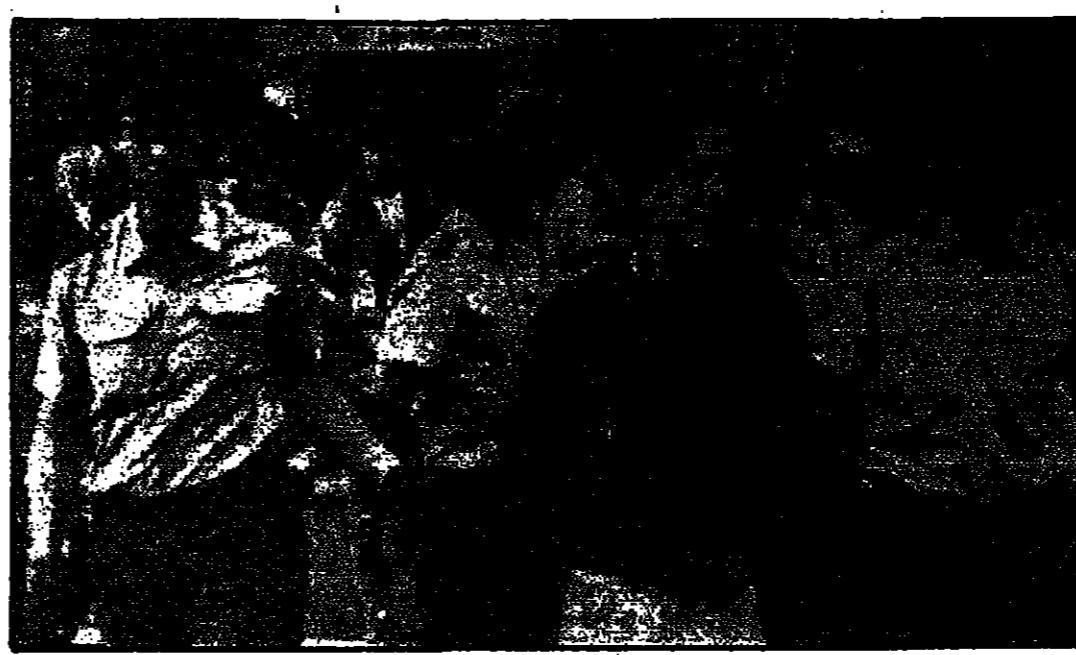
"Who are those for?"

"I hear the weather is... cold in England," he replies.

Back at the Akbar's shop it transpires over a few cups of green tea that most of the copy Kalashnikovs are not truly automatic. "We prefer single-shot guns anyway," says an Afridi tribesman sitting in the shop.

Akbar demonstrates a small gun in the form of a fountain pen. Costing \$12 it is popular with tourists but has also ended the lives of several unsuspecting Soviet soldiers in Afghanistan, he says.

The fragile looking instrument makes a huge roar as he fires it into the air. Shaking hands to take leave of Akbar, it is apparent he has few whole fingers left on either hand.



West German policemen arrest soccer hooligans

Soccer violence rages in W. Germany

FRANKFURT (AP) — Rival West German rowdies brawled in Munich Friday, while fights between English and German fans erupted for a second night in Frankfurt.

English fans, on a self-proclaimed "invasion of Germany 1988," have descended on Frankfurt for Saturday's match against the Soviet Union in the two-week, West German-hosted European soccer championships.

Police said Friday the body of a 29-year-old Irish soccer fan was found floating in the Main river running through Frankfurt.

Police said he apparently drowned while intoxicated. The

body was discovered Thursday night.

Soccer-related violence broke out in Munich Friday, while police put the blame on rival gangs of West German thugs.

Munich police arrested 59 rowdies — most of them West Germans — for street brawling or for tearing up compartments on two trains bringing fans to the Bavarian capital for the Friday night West Germany-Spain soccer match.

Small groups of English, West German and Italian rowdies got into isolated scuffles near Frankfurt's main train station Friday night, police said. About 200 beer-drinking English fans had been milling about in the area since Friday afternoon.

Before dawn Friday, English troublemakers tore up several Frankfurt bars and attacked West Germans.

Chinese Muslims warned not to oppose family planning

PEKING (R) — Religious leaders in China's biggest Muslim region have been warned not to oppose new birth control rules imposed on ethnic minorities there for the first time, the official New China News Agency said Saturday.

Under the regulations, which go into force July 1, minority couples in urban areas of Xinjiang, western China, will be permitted only two children, while rural families will be limited to three, or four in exceptional cases.

The news agency quoted regional Chairman Tomur Dawamat as saying religious leaders — most of them Muslim — should support the new rules.

"At least, they should not place obstacles in the way of the work," Dawamat said.

Minority races account for only 60 million of China's population of 1.085 billion and have previously been exempted from the tough one-child-per-family policy applied to majority han Chinese.

In Xinjiang, which has a population of only 14 million, families of 10 children are common among Muslim minorities.

The agency quoted Dawamat as saying a population boom threatened to overload social services and transport and wreck economic development. The adoption of family planning "marked social progress," he said.

Xinjiang's ethnic population, made up mostly of uyghur central Asians, is now 8.63 million, double the figure at the time of the 1949 Communist takeover, earlier reports said.

The remainder of the population are han settlers from eastern China, who hold most leading positions in Xinjiang's ruling Communist Party bodies.

Defiance of birth control rules threatens China's population policy in many rural areas.

United Nations officials said in May that if current trends continued, Peking's goal of keeping the population to 1.2 billion in the year 2000 would be exceeded by 87 million people.

WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

Cyanide woman sentenced to 90 years

SEATTLE (AP) — A woman convicted in a death-by-product tampering trial was sentenced to 90 years in prison Friday for killing her husband and a stranger with capsules laced with cyanide. U.S. District Judge William Dwyer recommended that Stells Nickell, 44, not be eligible for parole for a minimum of 30 years, saying, "The jury has found the defendant guilty of appalling crimes." Dwyer took note of the fact that the poisoned pain relief capsules had been left on store shelves and could easily have fallen into the hands of innocent victims. Nickell received 90-year terms each for two counts of product tampering that resulted in the deaths of her husband, Bruce Nickell, and Susan Katherine Snow.

She faced possible life terms on those two counts. Prosecutors alleged Nickell killed her husband because she was tired of him and wanted to collect \$176,000 in life insurance. They said Snow, who had no connection with the couple, was an innocent victim of a plot to make Nickell's death appear to be the work of a random killer.

Nunn not interested in vice presidency

WASHINGTON (AP) — Senator Sam Nunn said Friday he told Michael Dukakis' campaign chairman that he was not interested in the Democratic Party's vice-presidential nomination. Nunn, chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee, did not rule out accepting such an offer, saying in an interview it would be "very presumptuous" to respond to hypothetical questions about what he would do if Dukakis, the likely Democratic presidential nominee, offered him the spot. However, he said, "it is not my desire to have that job offered to me and then to turn it down. I don't think that's good for the process" or for Dukakis. Nunn was among members of Congress who met individually this week with Paul Brountas, Dukakis' campaign chairman, to discuss the vice-presidency.

Zia removes key media officials

ISLAMABAD (R) — Pakistani authorities have replaced four key officials in the state-run mass media, the official Associated Press of Pakistan (APP) news agency reported. No reason was given for the sackings, but they came the day after President Mohammad Zia Ul Haq vowed to cleanse the media of "vulgarity and obscenity." Those sacked were the secretary to the information and broadcasting ministry, along with the heads of Pakistan television, the National Press Trust and the press information department, APP said. They were all appointed by Prime Minister Mohammad Khan Junejo, sacked by Zia May 29. Zia vowed to cleanse the media when he decreed that the Islamic legal code of Sharia would become Pakistan's supreme source of law.

Prague police disrupt peace seminar

VIENNA (AP) — At least 11 people were detained in Prague Friday when police prevented peace activists from Czechoslovakia, Hungary and a number of Western countries including the United States from holding a planned independent seminar, emigre sources said. The independent peace seminar, organised by the Czechoslovak human rights group Charter 77, was to open Friday with three workshops, the London-based emigre publisher Palach Press reported. However, a meeting of the organisers was disrupted by police at 3:00 p.m. (1300 GMT) and 11 people were detained including Petr Uhl and Jiri Pavlicek who were the main organisers of the seminar, Palach Press said.

Four killed in Philippine mutiny

MANILA (AP) — The captain and three crew members were killed in a mutiny aboard a merchant marine training ship in central Philippine Seas early this week, the coast guard reported Saturday. Third mate Alex Quillatan, leader of the mutiny, escaped aboard a lifeboat after other crewmen regained control of the MV Filipinas, a 19,000-ton training ship belonging to the government-run National Maritime Polytechnic College, the report said. A mutineer has taken control of the ship, reported late Friday to be in the vicinity of San Bernardino Strait, a coast guard spokesman in Manila said. He said he did not know where the ship was going.

COLUMN

Princess Diana's smile earns her a fellowship

LONDON (AP) — Princess Diana, flashing her famous smile, accepted an honorary fellowship in dental surgery Friday from the Royal College of Surgeons. Clad in the faculty's red-trimmed academic gown and mortar board, the princess quipped, "This is one of the first times that I have not been asked to unveil a plaque." An official for the Royal College of Surgeons, a research and training association, said: "The princess shows a shining example with her beautiful teeth."

Corpse thieves arrested